

Ranger Programs



Join a park ranger for a guided hike, evening slide show, talk, or workshop on Big Bend's natural and cultural history. These free programs are offered daily. Consult the Interpretive Activities Schedule posted on visitor center and campground bulletin boards for more information.

Lodging



The Chisos Mountains Lodge, operated by Forever Resorts Inc., is located in the Chisos Basin at 5,400 feet elevation. The lodge offers a variety of rooms and cottages, plus a gift shop and dining room. For reservations, please call (432) 477-2291 or 2292.

Banking



There are NO banking facilities in Big Bend National Park. The nearest banking/ATM services are located in Study Butte, 26 miles west of park headquarters. Most stores accept major credit cards; however, some local services accept only cash. It is advisable to have small bills (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20) since larger bills are often difficult to change.

Birdwatching



While it is true that the incredible diversity of the spring migration will not be equaled during the late summer and fall, the months from July through November in Big Bend National Park still have much to offer to the birder. Consider that many "specialty" species wander away from their normal nesting range after breeding (July & August). This phenomenon, called post-breeding dispersal, may produce rarities including white-eared hummingbirds, sulphur-bellied flycatchers, and red-faced warblers, all review species in Texas. If the possibility of rarities like these doesn't excite you, keep in mind that on the heels of the post-breeding dispersal comes the beginning of the fall migration.

Camping



Tent Camping

The National Park Service operates campgrounds at Rio Grande Village, the Chisos Basin, and Castolon. The cost is \$10.00 per night for a site. Campsite fees can be paid in US currency, personal checks, or credit card.

Camping is also available at **primitive backcountry campsites** in the Chisos Mountains and along backcountry roads. High-clearance or 4-wheel drive vehicles are necessary to reach most road sites. Backcountry permits are required and can be obtained in person at park visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance.

Camping areas are often full during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, as well as during spring break in March or April.



Trailers & RV's

All park campgrounds can accommodate trailers and RVs, but vehicle lengths have a great deal to do with safely reaching the campground and finding a suitable space.

The only hookups available in Big Bend National Park are at Rio Grande Village in the 25-site, **Rio Grande Village RV Park** operated by Big Bend Resorts, Inc. Although there is no size restriction, your vehicle must be equipped with water and electrical hookups as well as a three-inch sewer connection. Register at the store. No advance reservations.

Near the RV park is the 100-site **Rio Grande Village Campground** operated by the National Park Service. Although there are no hookups, water, flush toilets, and a dump station are available. Set in a large grove of cottonwoods, the campground is adjacent to the Rio Grande. Many of the sites are pull-throughs. **Generator use is limited: from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.** A no-generator use area is also designated.

The 63-site **Chisos Basin Campground** is rugged and hilly. The sites are small and most are not suited to recreational vehicles or trailers. The road to the Basin is steep and curvy, especially at Panther Pass—the road's highest point. The road into the campground is a 15 percent grade. Trailers longer than 20 feet and RVs longer than 24 feet are not recommended.

Cottonwood Campground, near Castolon, offers pit toilets and potable water, but no hookups or dump station. **Cottonwood is a NO-generator campground.**

Big Bend's unpaved roads are generally unsuitable for RV's and trailers. Overnight camping in any primitive site requires a backcountry permit, obtained in person at park visitor centers up to 24 hours in advance.



The only showers and laundry facilities in the park are located at the Rio Grande Village store.

Campsite Reservations

Forty-three (43) sites at **Rio Grande Village campground** and twenty-six (26) sites at the **Chisos Basin campground** are reservable from November 15th to April 15th each year. Visitors may contact ReserveUSA year round to make reservations for the period of November 15th through April 15th of each year. All remaining campsites in these two campgrounds and the entire Cottonwood campground remain on the first-come first-serve basis.

Campsite reservations may be made through the Internet: www.reserveusa.com, or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

Big Bend National Park cannot make reservations.

Groups of 10 or more are eligible to reserve a spot in one of the park's **Group campsites** at the Rio Grande Village, Chisos Basin, and Cottonwood Campgrounds. Group sites are reservable year round and reservations may be made 360 days in advance. Reservations for Rio Grande Village and the Chisos Basin campgrounds family-type sites may be made 240 days in advance.

Park Campgrounds

	Elevation	Sites	Nightly Fees:	Facilities	Registration	Comments
Chisos Basin	5,401 ft	63	\$10.00*	Flush Toilets, Dump Station	Self-pay station	Surrounded by rocky cliffs. Many hiking trails nearby.
Cottonwood	2,169 ft	31	\$10.00*	Pit Toilets, No Generators	Self-pay station	In a cottonwood grove along the river. Grassy sites. Good birding.
Rio Grande Village	1,850 ft	100	\$10.00*	Flush Toilets, Dump Station	Self-pay station	Largest campground. Shady sites. Laundromat and showers nearby.
Rio Grande Village RV	1,850 ft	25	Starts at \$18.00	Full Hookups	Inquire at RGV Camper's Store	Concession-operated. Adjacent to RGV store.

* \$5.00 with Golden Age or Golden Access Passport